

Words used in the EMS DNR Order Act and Form

Advanced directive

A written document voluntarily executed by the patient in accordance with the requirements of the law

Agent

A person acting under a Health Care Power of Attorney, executed or made in accordance with the provisions of Section 62-5-504 of SC law

Department

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

EMS Personnel

The emergency medical service personnel certified by the Department. For EMS DNR purposes, EMS personnel include first responders who have completed a Department-approved Medical First Responder Program

Palliative Treatment

Treatment that provides comfort and alleviation of pain and suffering, administered in the routine delivery of emergency medical services

Resuscitative Treatment

Artificial stimulation of the cardiopulmonary systems of the human body, through mechanical, electrical or manual means including, but not limited to cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)

Surrogate

A person authorized to give consent under the Health Care Consent Act in accordance with the provisions of Section 44-66-30 of SC law

Terminal Condition

An incurable or irreversible condition that, within sound medical judgment, could cause death within a reasonably short period of time (if life-sustaining procedures are not used)

Where can I get more information?

Getting an EMS DNR Order is a serious, thoughtful decision. Talk to your family, friends, and doctor about it. Let them know your wishes. If you need more information from DHEC, contact

S.C. DHEC
Division of Emergency Medical Services
2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (803) 545-4204
Web site: www.scdhec.gov/hr/ems



information for patients and families about the
DO NOT RESUSCITATE order



South Carolina Department of Health
and Environmental Control

www.scdhec.gov

*We promote and protect the health of the public
and the environment.*

CR-006174 1/2010

(EMS DNR Order Act)
SC Code Section 44-78-10



If you are reading this, you or someone you know has a terminal illness or condition. You may have made the difficult personal decision to refuse life-saving measures should a health crisis occur. The state of South Carolina compassionately provides for your wish in the EMS DNR Order Act (Emergency Services Non-Resuscitation Order Act).

What is the EMS DNR Order Act?

The EMS DNR Order Act allows EMS workers to follow a terminally ill patient's wish to NOT have "life saving measures" if the patient's heart stops and/or the patient stops breathing (as described on the EMS DNR Form).

The EMS DNR Order Act applies only to life-saving efforts by EMS personnel. Other advance directives do NOT affect or take the place of the EMS DNR Order. The EMS DNR Order MUST be followed even if the patient has other advance directives.

Who should know about the EMS DNR Order Act?

- EMS personnel
- Doctors who authorize these Orders
- Patients
- Patient families
- Patient advocates
- Hospice and hospital personnel
- Nursing home administrators and staff
- Anyone involved in deciding on an EMS DNR Order

Who can ask for an EMS DNR Order?

You can request an Order if you are:

- A terminally ill adult patient who understands what an EMS DNR Order does and can agree to it
- A surrogate for a terminally ill adult patient (allowed by the Adult Health Care Consent Act)
- An agent of a terminally ill patient and are named in a "Health Care Power of Attorney" document

How can I get an EMS DNR Order?

You (or your legal surrogate or agent) can ask for an EMS DNR Order from your doctor. The record the doctor keeps on you must list the time, date, and terminal medical condition you have.

The form must be signed by both you (or your surrogate or agent) and the doctor. The form must list the doctor's name, address, and phone number. The Form describes for what events you do NOT want life-saving measures.

How do I use an executed EMS DNR Form?

You must hang the executed EMS DNR Form where you live, in a place where EMS personnel can easily see the Form. You should be able to see the Form at all times. Protect the Form from sun, rain, etc. Do not tear or change the Form.

Should I wear an EMS DNR "marker" (bracelet or necklace)?

You are encouraged to wear a DHEC-approved ID bracelet or necklace that shows that you have an executed EMS DNR Form. The bracelet or necklace must be made of metal and list your name, your doctor's name and telephone number, and the words "Do not resuscitate" or the letters "DNR." You are not required to wear a marker.

How does an EMS DNR Order work?

If you have a health crisis, your heart stops, and/or you stop breathing, EMS workers may be called. The EMS workers will report to the scene of the call. They will assess your condition. If you are wearing an EMS DNR bracelet or necklace, EMS workers will look for your EMS DNR Form. If they do not find your Form, life-saving measures will be started. If the Form is found after starting life-saving measures, the measures will be stopped.

Can an EMS DNR Order be cancelled or revoked?

The EMS DNR Order can be cancelled at any time if

- You ask EMS personnel for resuscitative measures
- Your EMS DNR Form is mutilated or destroyed

If the Order is revoked, EMS personnel will treat you and apply life-saving measures.